

VAT Most stores participate in the **Value Added Tax** program in which Non-European citizens may be entitled to reclaim a portion or all of the taxes paid (depending on the total purchase price). It is your responsibility to inquire as to whether or not the store participates in VAT refund program if the purchase qualifies for a refund.

GLOBAL BLUE Shop where you see this **Global Blue - Tax Free** Shopping sign and ask for your tax refund receipt. To qualify, there are minimum amounts, per store, per day, so please ask the retailer for details. Show your purchases and Global Blue receipts to Customs officials when leaving the EU. Have your Global checks stamped and collect your cash at the Global Blue cash refund office.



Georges Jewelry

7 Pandrossou Street
near Cathedral Square



3 Benizelou Street
87 Adrianou Street
71 Adrianou Street

Atlantis Fine Jewelry

77 Adrianou &
2 Paleologou Benizelou Streets

Olive Tree

Greek Hand Made
Olive Wood Products

67 Adrianou Street

Xenia Ino Propylea

Shops located below Acropolis

KONSTANTINO

20 Pandrossou Street



Look for this sign or flag in all of our preferred shops.

Beware of "similar" signs at store fronts.

If the store is not mentioned on this map, then the store is not part of our program!

PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING MAP GUARANTEE Shop with confidence as all the merchants on our **Preferred Shopping Program** have been carefully selected and that each offers a 60 day guarantee to our cruise line guests. This guarantee is for repairs and exchanges. Please note the following conditions apply to the guarantee: Guest negligence or buyer's regret is excluded. Price paid for merchandise or verbal claims/agreements between merchant and guests will not be grounds for returns. Only jewelry appraisals from gem laboratories or independent graduate gemologist appraisers not affiliated with jewelry retailer, or rug appraisals from certified non-commercial carpet experts will be considered for valuation claims. Watches and other brand merchandise may not be returned as they carry International brand warranties. Guests are responsible for all postage returns and appraisal fees.

Please contact us at Europeshopping@rccl.com if any queries arise after your purchase from our preferred shops on shore. We will do our best to facilitate a solution on your behalf.



Athens (Piraeus), Greece

PORT EXPLORER and SHOPPING GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION Throughout history, Athens has been one of the most important and influential cities of the western world. The peak of this civilization occurred during the 70-year Golden Age in the fifth century BC. It was during this period that great strides were made in architecture, literature, math, science, philosophy and medicine. History gave witness to some of the most celebrated men of our time including Sophocles, Euripides, Hippocrates, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Despite its vast history, the Athens of the 20th century is a bustling modern city with overcrowded streets, traffic jams, pollution, and characterless modern cement buildings. The city has been criticized for lack of overall planning during an enormous population growth in the 19th and 20th centuries. When Athens became the Capital of Greece in 1834, it was a mere village of 6,000 residence. The Athens of today is home to 4.5 million people and covers an area of 165 square miles.

Located 7 miles from the center of Athens, Piraeus has been Athen's port since the early 5th century BC. The city became an economic center in the 1920's with the construction of over 75 steam powered factories. The population has now reached 600,000.

HISTORY Athens grew to a city of historic importance around the 8th century BC when it became the artistic center of Greece. It continued to flourish and reached its zenith in the 5th century BC. This period was known as the Golden Age of classical Greek culture and produced some of the most influential historical figures of the Western world. Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides wrote tragic masterpieces while Aristophanes satirized contemporary ideals with his comedies. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle debated the fundamental questions of knowledge and meaning, and early historians such as Herodotus challenged the assumption that gods, not human beings, governed history. Hippocrates developed the science of medicine, and classical architecture and sculpture reached new heights with the construction of the Acropolis and Parthenon.

The end of the Golden Age began with the Peloponnesian War (431 – 404 BC) between Athens and Sparta. Athens continued to be a notable cultural center until the 2nd century when the Roman Empire took control of Greece. The city remained the center of Greek education until the fall of Rome to the Byzantine Empire in 476 AD. Emperor Justinian closed Plato's Academy in Athens and the dark ages (Medieval Era) prevailed for the next 500 years.

Athens experienced a pseudo-renaissance around the 12th and 13th centuries but then fell under Turkish rule for the next four centuries. The Greek War of Independence (1821 – 1829) brought the city out of cultural hibernation and in 1834 Athens was proclaimed the capital of the new, independent Greece.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the best of your visit to Piraeus and Athens we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Tipping: There are no absolute rules for tipping. A 10% tip is expected in most restaurants, and a taxi fare should be rounded up to the nearest Euro.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES For a starter you will most likely find these three favorites on most menus; taramasalata (a dip or spread made from fish roe), melitsanosalata (made from smoked eggplant), and tzatziki (a yogurt cucumber and garlic dip usually used with bread). The traditional main entrees include moussaka (baked dish of minced lamb, potatoes and eggplant), gemista (stuffed tomatoes or peppers). Fast-food in Greece consists of the giro (slices of grilled meat with tomato and onions in a pita bread), souvlaki (shish kebab), and pastries filled with a variety of stuffings including spinach, cheese, or meat. A meal is not complete without a piece of baklava (a very sweet phyllo pastry filled with walnut and honey) for desert.

Ouzo, a clear licorice-flavor drink, and brandy (Botrys and Metaxa) are the national aperitifs of Greece. Wine is drunk at almost all meals and social gathering and is relatively inexpensive. Bottled water is recommended.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main Post Office is located on the corner of Mitropoleos Street and Syntagma Square.

The OTE (International telephones) office is located at 15 Stadiou St.. Many payphones operate by telephone cards that can be purchased at the OTE office and some kiosks.

TOURIST INFORMATION Tourist information is available in the terminal.

TRANSPORTATION There are plenty of taxis available at the pier. However, please ensure that the meter is turned on in order to avoid being overcharged. Taxi drivers prefer to take tourists on a city tour with a preset price instead of dropping off in the shopping district. A regular bus service (green bus) runs into Athens approx. every 10 mins. For Athens and its suburbs use the "Blue bus".

There is also a subway system with connections between Piraeus and Athens. The main station is located at Omonia Square in Athens.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

- Yes • Ne
- No • Ochi
- Good Day • Kalimera
- Good-bye • Adio
- Thank-you • Efharisto
- You're Welcome • Parakalo



SHOPPING and DINING in ATHENS

PLAKA SHOPPING & DINING

A GEORGES JEWELRY - 7 Pandrossou Street near Cathedral Square

- All items are individually handcrafted in their own workshop and are available in their own store.
- Exclusive collection of traditional Greek key designs.
- Jewelry with diamonds and precious stones.
- New collection of sterling silver.
- Good service and pleasant atmosphere.

B DIMOS JEWELRY - 3 Locations

- BA - 3 Benizelou Street
- BB - 87 Adrianou Street
- BC - 71 Adrianou Street

Greek by Birth, American by Choice! Family owned since 1968. Steve Dimos, an award winning designer has been creating authentic Greek jewelry with 14K, 18K, 22K and gemstones. There is extended service available through their Houston, Texas location. Direct savings and friendly Greek hospitality is found at Steve's shops. Inquire about taxis to the pier from their locations.



C ATLANTIS FINE JEWELRY 77 Adrianou & 2 Paleologou Benizelou Streets

You can find friendly and experienced staff at this store offering traditional and modern designs in all price ranges and selections of gold. International warranties and duty free pricing available. Watches: Official retailers of Cartier, Vacheron Constantin, Omega, Tag Heuer, IWC, Longines, Hublot, Baume et Mercier, Rado and Tissot.

D OLIVE TREE - 67 Adrianou Street

Greek Handmade Olive Wood Products We have chosen the most beautiful and durable tree of the Greek Land to create unique hand made items :

- For your kitchen : Salad bowls, cutting/serving boards, mortars & pestles, salad tongs, spoons, etc.
 - Decorative home items: Crosses, picture frames, clocks & unique Castle Houses based on the Greek Architecture.
 - Olive wood backgammon & chess sets.
 - For you and your loved ones: Jewelry all made with olive wood and other materials (semi precious stones, ceramic, volcano stones, etc), handmade olive oil soap and natural cosmetics with Olive Oil.
- Receive a free gift with any purchase.

E LITHOS BY MICHELE

20 Mitropoleos Street near Syntagma Square Unique jewelry in 18k and 22k devoted to Ancient Techniques. Greek-American owner, uses colorful enamel, black platinum, Byzantine designs and Cellini favorites. Tax-Free and service oriented. ENTER OUR RAFFLE TO WIN A SPECIAL PIECE OF JEWELRY. Taxi service available back to pier.

F KONSTANTINO

20 Pandrossou Street Timeless jewelry with remarkable artisanship featuring designs in sterling silver and 18k. gold, inspired by art, architecture, mythology and people of Greece. All items are individually handcrafted in Athens and are available only at the authentic Konstantino boutique.

KONSTANTINO

SHOPPING BENEATH THE ACROPOLIS

G XENIA - 57 Erechthiou

This family owned and operated shop boasts a wide variety of souvenirs for any budget. Their friendly staff awaits and will assist you in the purchase of fine handmade icons and archaic jewelry inspired by Greek Mythology among your traditional souvenir selections.

H INO - 29 Parthenonos

Exceptional Greek handicrafts. Monastery icons and replicas of museum statues are available. Silver and Gold Filigree, and one-of-a kind jewelry pieces make this store unique.

I PROPYLAEA 43 Erechthiou & Fratti Street

Handmade Greek items available with a staff that is always ready to please. You can find scarves, decorative ceramics, souvenirs and handmade silver and gold jewelry at this store located near the Acropolis.

★ TOUR DROP-OFF LOCATION

